

- Radiological Release at Vermont Yankee -

To: Vermont Health Care Providers
From: Austin Sumner, MD, MPH, HOC Medical Division Supervisor

– This is an exercise. This is not a real event. –

Vermont Emergency Management has notified residents of Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford, Halifax, Marlboro and Vernon that there has been a release of radiation at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station in Vernon that exceeds federal exposure limits. At this time the extent of the release is not known. Residents are being instructed to stay tuned to emergency alert system radio and TV and to follow instructions for protective actions.

The Vermont Department of Health has opened its Health Operations Center and is working in close coordination with all agencies to respond to this situation.

What you should do - Now is the time to activate your radiological emergency response plan and prepare to receive patients at your facility.

Some general guidance and additional resources follow. Radiation cannot be detected by human senses. A radiological survey conducted with specialized equipment is the only way to confirm the presence of radiation. Exposure occurs when a person is near a radiation source. People exposed to a source of radiation can suffer radiation illness if their dose is high enough, but they do not become radioactive. Contamination occurs externally when loose particles of radioactive material are deposited on surfaces, skin or clothing. Internal contamination occurs when radioactive particles are inhaled, ingested or lodged in an open wound.

Contaminated patients should be decontaminated as soon as possible, without delaying critical care. Patients who have been exposed to radiation but are not contaminated with radioactive material do not need to be decontaminated.

See the attached Emergency Radiation Medicine Response Guide, which includes radiation patient treatment guidelines. **For more information and tools for health care providers** – go to the Health Department's website at: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/emerg/drill/ipf11/index.aspx>

Conference Call TODAY, March 8 at 12:30 pm to discuss treatment guidelines and provide updates from the state's dose assessment and plume tracking team.

Dial 800-XXX-XXXX. Access code: XXXX